

MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD ON HIGHER EDUCATION



What is Measuring Up?

The purpose of a state report card is to provide the general public and policymakers with information they can use to assess and improve postsecondary education in each state. *Measuring Up 2008* is the fifth in a series of biennial report cards.

The report card grades states in six overall performance categories: **Preparation:** How adequately does the state prepare students for education and training beyond high school? **Participation:** Do state residents have sufficient opportunities to enroll in education and training beyond high school? **Affordability:** How affordable is higher education for students and their families? **Completion:** Do students make progress toward and complete their certificates or degrees in a timely manner? **Benefits:** What benefits does the state receive from having a highly educated population? **Learning:** What is known about student learning as a result of education and training beyond high school?

Grades compare the current performance of each state with the best-performing states, but do not compare with past performance. Key indicators (back page) allow states to compare current performance with past performance.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

Georgia



PREPARATION

C+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Georgia's fairly low performance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy.

- Eighth graders perform poorly in math, science, reading, and writing.
- Georgia is among the poorest-performing states in high school completion. Only 84% of blacks have a high school credential, compared with 89% of whites.

PARTICIPATION

D-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is low, primarily because the state has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the country.
- Twenty-eight percent of black young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 39% of whites.

AFFORDABILITY

F



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Higher education has become less affordable for students and their families.

- Poor and working-class families must devote 40% of their income, even after aid (including HOPE scholarships), to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.
- The state makes almost no investment in need-based financial aid.

COMPLETION

B-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Georgia is a top performer in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled, but few students attain a bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

- Forty-eight percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Forty-three percent of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 49% of whites.

REPORT CARD

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Preparation | C+ |
| Participation | D- |
| Affordability | F |
| Completion | B- |
| Benefits | B |
| Learning | I |

WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

BENEFITS

B



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, yet the economic benefits to the state are very high.

- Nineteen percent of blacks have a bachelor's degree, compared with 33% of whites.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$24 billion higher.

LEARNING

I

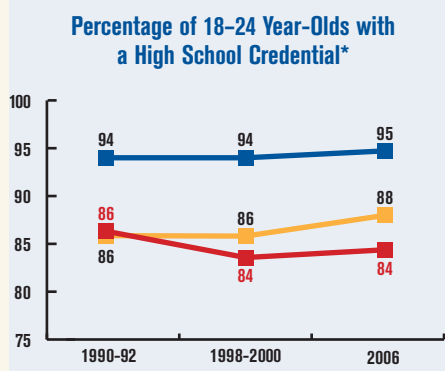
2008 Grade

Like all states, Georgia receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

This page reflects Georgia's performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

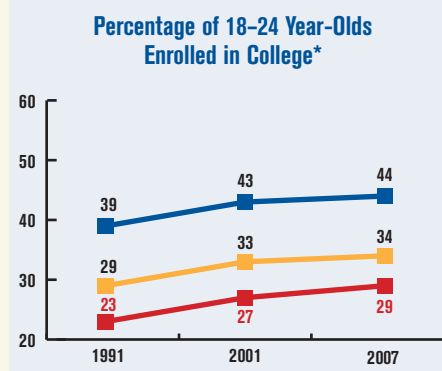
PREPARATION

The percentage of young adults in Georgia who earn a high school diploma has decreased slightly since the early 1990s. High school completion is well below the U.S. average and the top-performing states.

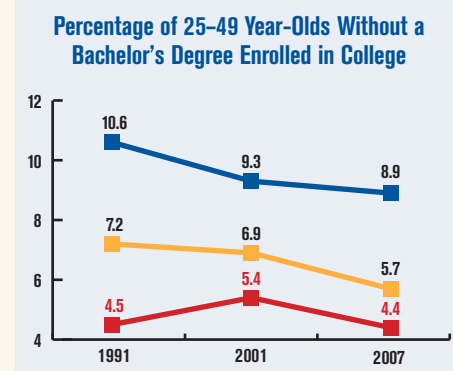


PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in Georgia has improved substantially since the early 1990s. Compared with the national average and the top states, however, considerably fewer young adults are enrolled in Georgia (in percentages).

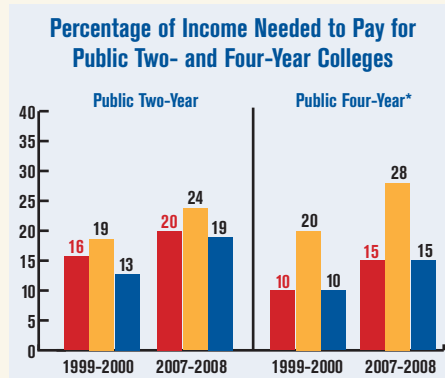


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Georgia—but not as substantially as it has across the nation and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Georgia is well below the U.S. average and the top states.



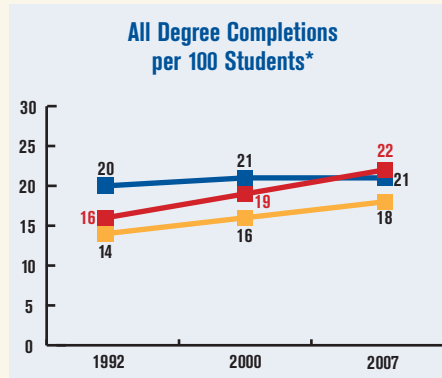
AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two-year colleges in Georgia, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states. To attend public four-year colleges, they pay about the same as those in the best states, which is much less than the national average.



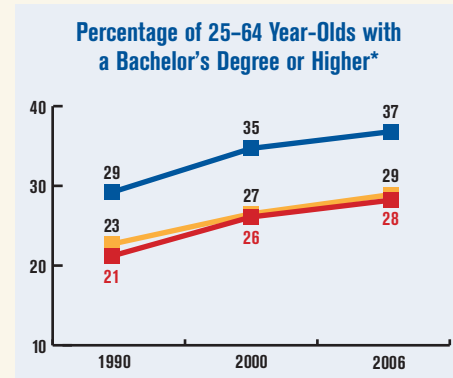
COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Georgia, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. Georgia surpasses the U.S. average and is the top state on this measure.



BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased considerably in Georgia, but is slightly below the U.S. average and below the top states.



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

- & ■ = Georgia
- & ■ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



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